IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An oral sustained release pharmaceutical comprising:

a plurality of granules having diameters of not more than 1000 μm,

wherein said granules comprise:

a nucleus granule comprised of beraprost sodium, and

a coating agent coating said nucleus granule, and

wherein said coating agent is comprised of:

a first skin layer containing one or more relatively water-insoluble macromolecular substances selected from the group consisting of ethyl celluloses, butyl celluloses, polyvinyl acetates, polyvinyl butyrates, and ~~water-insoluble acrylic polymer derivatives~~poly(ethylacrylate, methylmethacrylate), and poly(ethylacrylate, methylmethacrylate)trimethyl-ammonio-ethylmethacrylate chloride, and

a second skin layer ~~containing one or more hot-melt low-melting substances~~ comprising a substance selected from the group consisting of stearic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearyl alcohol, myristyl alcohol, lauryl alcohol, cetyl alcohol, glyceryl palmitooleate, glyceryl monooleate, glyceryl monostearate, glyceryl monomyristate, glyceryl monobehenate, glyceryl trimyristate, glyceryl tribehenate, carnauba wax, and paraffins~~, said hot-melt low-melting substances having a softening point of not higher than 70°C~~,

wherein said first and second skin layers are selected to provide a pH-independent release of said beraprost sodium.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of said first skin layer to said second skin layer ranges from about 1:9 to about 9:1.

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) The oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition of claim 5, wherein said weight ratio ranges from about 3:7 to about 7:3.

8. (cancelled)